

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00892 230917Z
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0892

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, IDB
SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNUAL MEETING

REF: STATE 67138

1. MINISER OF FINANCE FRANK HOPE HAS INFORMED US THAT HE WILL LEAD THE GOG DELEGATION AT THE VANCOUVER IDB MEETING APRIL 17-19. HIS PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR AN ARRIVAL ON APRIL 14 AND DEPARTURE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WEDNESDAY SESSIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO HOPE THE GUYANESE WILL SEEK A BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION WHILE IN VANCOUVER. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HEARING THAT ASST. SEC. BERGSTEN WILL BE LEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION; HE IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH BERGSTEN'S PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AND LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH HIM. PARTICULARLY, HOPE WISHES TO DISCUSS GUYANA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ITS ON-GOING NEGOTIATION WITH THE IMF.

3. AS FAR AS THE IDB MEETING ITSELF IS CONCERNED HE HAS NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IN DETAIL THE DOCUMENTATION FURNISHED BY THE BANK. (OVER THE LAST FORTNIGHT HE HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DEFENDING THE GOG BUDGET BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT.) HE IS AWARE THAT THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC IS A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE BANK'S RESOURCES.
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HE WILL BE BRIEFING HIMSELF OVER THE LONG EASTER WEEK-END IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING.

4. HOPE HAS BEEN MIN. OF FINANCE SINCE AUGUST 1972. A TECHNICIAN RATHER THAN A POLITICIAN, HE IS SOLIDLY GROUNDED ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE GUYANESE ECONOMY. THOUGH HE HAS SPOKEN OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE NIEO IN THE PAST IN

KEEPING WITH GUYANA'S POSITION AS A LEADER IN THE NAM,
HOPE'S INSTINCTS SEEM MORE THOSE OF A CONSERVATIVE BANKER
THAN IDEOLOGUE. ON THE BASIS OF THE EMBASSY'S CONTACT
WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS, HE IS FRIENDLY AND WELL-
DISPOSED TO THE U.S. AND POSSIBLY COULD BE HELPFUL IN
SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS WITHIN THE IDB THOUGH GOG IS
A COMPARATIVELY NEW MEMBER OF THE BANK.
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